

Apprenticeships - the reality

Case Study

Name: Lisa Wagstaff
Age: 19
Studying: HNC in Electrical Engineering



The Background

When she was young, Lisa loved building things and taking things apart. Given there is a family tradition in engineering, it was not unnatural for Lisa to want to follow in their footsteps and train as an engineer.

After applying to the Leeds Training Trust to undertake an apprenticeship in Electrical Engineering, Lisa excelled in the aptitude test, coming in the top 10% of all applicants.

Lisa was immediately offered a position with Schneider Electric, a huge multi-national producing everything from domestic supply to high voltage systems for Power Stations.

Although engineering is still very much a male dominated profession, Schneider's shop floor workforce comprises about 10% females, all of whom are treated just the same as their male peers.

The Quote

"Even though engineering is not a profession most people would associate with females, I have never been one to conform to stereotypes and actually relish the challenge of 'daring to be different'. Similarly, people automatically think of engineering as an oily, dirty job, but it doesn't have to be like that and believe me, it's far from boring!"

The Future

Lisa is continuing her studies towards attaining her HNC and is confident that progressing to Higher Education will definitely improve her long-term career prospects.

is it time

for you

to go

higher?



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Why gain higher qualifications?

There's no denying getting a Higher Qualification isn't easy. In fact it takes quite a lot of hard work, discipline and dedication. So why bother?

Here's why

Prospects

- Graduates have better career prospects
- A Higher Qualification opens up other career options
- Graduates are **50% less likely** to be unemployed
- Employers prefer Higher Qualifications, especially ones combined with an Apprenticeship
- Apprenticeship graduates find more jobs are available to them

Financial

- Degree holders typically earn 50% more than someone with a Level 3 qualification, such as A Levels or NVQ level 3

Self Employment

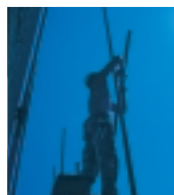
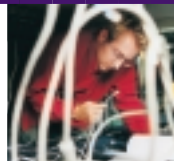
- If you want to work for yourself, you'll be better equipped with a Higher Qualification

Professional Qualifications

- Increasingly more professions are restricting membership of their professional bodies to those possessing a Higher Qualification
- Increasingly more jobs are demanding one

e.g. NVQ level 4 will be a mandatory requirement for managers in care homes from 2005.

Large building contractors are looking for evidence of qualifications within subcontractor companies and would expect a Level 4 qualification for their managers.



Apprentices go Higher

Graduates are "more marketable" to Employers

Many employers look to recruit graduates because they possess

- Immediately transferable "state of the art" knowledge
- A maturity gained through self-motivated study, self-discipline and independence
- Other valuable qualities that will help deliver long-term business success

Thinking About an Apprenticeship?

Considering your options at 16?

Don't know the best route to entering Higher Education?

These are some of the many benefits of taking the much underestimated Apprenticeship route

- You **earn** while you **learn**
- You gain practical skills employers **want** – you don't have to prove your ability
- Most of your learning is "workplace based"
- You get a degree without getting into debt

What's the next step?

If you're currently an Apprentice, or have already completed an Apprenticeship, simply contact **either** your local Connexions PA, or your local college or university, to find out about your options.

Alternatively log on to www.apprenticesgohigher.org for a list of local Foundation Degree courses and further information.

A degree without debt!

Remember, if you're considering an Apprenticeship, it's a route to University that doesn't demand you have A levels, enabling you to get a career-enhancing degree, and, with employer-support, without saddling you with a huge student debt.

Or put another way, heads you win, tails you can't lose.

So what are you waiting for?

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